

APRIL, 2015

# MUSELETTER

AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY

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WWW.AUSTINPOETRYSOCIETY.ORG



## Come Celebrate National Poetry Month at our Open Mike!

On **Saturday, April 18th**, from **1:30-3:30p.m.**, we invite all our readers to gather at the **Yarborough Branch Library**, 2200 Hancock Dr., for an **Open Mike poetry reading** in celebration of April and National Poetry Month. We look forward to the pleasure of your company and your poems; bring both to share!

And for those whose pens have been running a bit dry lately, check out some of these excellent selections at BookWoman or Malvern Books and then share your favorites: *Faithful and Virtuous Night* by Louise **Gluck**, *Instant Winner* by Carrie **Fountain**, *3 Sections* by Vijay **Seshadri**, *What Work Is* by Philip **Levine**, *Turtle Island* by Gary **Snyder**, *Gasoline* by Gregory **Corso**, *Geography III* by Elizabeth **Bishop**, or *Blood Dazzler* by Patricia **Smith**.

We'll learn from Greg **Silver** the **results** of the **April Monthly Meeting Contests**. Members will also vote in the April officers election. Our meetings are free and open to the public, so nonmembers, please join us!

### APS Events in April

**The APS 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday Open Mike:** Thursday, April 23rd, 7-9pm. Host Linda Marie **Cossa** (whose poem "Nouns At the Border Cannot Be Trusted" was recently accepted by The Texas Observer) welcomes Lou **Faiel-Dattilo**, Nano Boye **Nagel**, Susan Beall **Summers**, Crackerfox, Gordon **Magill** and Dana **McBryde**. Come early and relax with a good meal at NeWorlDeli, 4101 Guadalupe.

**The APS 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Critique Group:** Saturday, April 18th, **Note Time Change: 10-Noon** (in other words, the critique group will meet shortly before the APS monthly meeting open mic). Bring 10 copies of a poem in progress to discuss with friendly fellow poets. April (optional) prompt: Use the following phrase as inspiration for or somewhere in a poem: "I'm not quite convinced." Facilitated by Elizabeth **Kropf** at the Yarborough Branch Public Library, 2200 Hancock Dr.

### Annual Awards Update

The **deadline** to send in entries for the many fabulous contests the APS is offering this year has been **extended through April 15th!**

So, as you attend several AIPF workshops and readings, meet fabulous poets from out of town, or imbibe several new books of poetry in honor of National Poetry Month, consider yourself encouraged to keep the many contest prompts in mind. Who knows? Your award-winning poem could be hovering between you, your pen and a blank piece of paper right now!

Contests, guidelines and a submission tutorial for the less-than-tech-savvy can be found at <http://www.austinpoetrysociety.org/>.

### Back to the ND for the Annual Awards!

The location for the Austin Poetry Society 2015 Annual Awards is confirmed: For the fifth year we'll meet at The North Door (502 Brushy St., Austin, TX 78702). If you haven't been yet, the venue features high-ceilings, balcony- and floor-level seating, a stage, a small pizzeria and a floor-to-ceiling projector screen. So invite your friends and family, be ready to read your winning poems at the microphone, and be sure to have fun! The date will be Saturday, **May 16th**, from **1:30-3:30p.m.** Full details forthcoming in the May *MuseLetter!*

APS is pleased to announce that a flurry of new members have joined in anticipation of the Annual Awards contests and National Poetry Month. We thank you, and all of our renewing members!

Shadow faces  
 In the shadow night  
 Before the early dawn  
 Bops bright

—Langston Hughes  
 from “Montage of a Dream Deferred”

### What is NaPoWriMo?

You may have heard people use this strange word in conversation as if it were a completely natural phenomenon, a part of everyday speech. Well, it isn't, though perhaps it should be.

NaPoWriMo is an almost-acronym for National Poetry Writing Month. When people say NaPoWriMo, they are talking about a national effort among many poets to write one poem a day during National Poetry Month. Many poets will also post their efforts on a blog; some people host e-mail groups where members do weekly accountability check-ins; others keep their work to themselves, writing in silent solidarity.

And if you're wondering how these superhumans accomplish such a feat; many consult <http://www.napowrimo.net/>, where you can find new poetry blogs, featured poetry resources and a prompt each day. Happy writing, all you NaPoWriMoers!

### Dos Gatos Press Founders Leave Austin

Well, it's official: beloved poetry gurus Scott **Wiggerman** and David **Meischen** are moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico. After many months of hexes, ill will and general grumpiness on the part of their groupies, their house here finally sold. Scott will be teaching a final workshop during Poetry at Round Top, “Writing the Bad Sonnet.” Don't miss out on this fun chance to learn how to begin writing sonnets from one of the masters. Scott and David have served poetry in Austin and Texas with honor and charm for several decades, and we're sad to see them go.

## Poetry at Round Top April 17th-19th

As of this writing, registration is still open for the 2015 festival in Round Top, TX: online at [poetry@roundtop.org](mailto:poetry@roundtop.org), by phone at 979-249-3129 (ask for Vickie), or by emailing [info@festivalhill.org](mailto:info@festivalhill.org). Please note that you must be registered for the festival to register for workshops or private consultations. This year's features include Sharon **Olds**, Richard **Blanco**, Patricia **Smith**, Ellen **Bass**, Carrie **Fountain**, Kevin **Prufer**, Laura **Van Prooyen**, Michael **McGriff** and Malachi **Black**.

Visit the website above for full details about this annual event, including schedules, opportunities to donate, and accommodations. See [roundtop.org](http://roundtop.org) to learn more about the historic town of Round Top.

## Calls for Submissions

The open reading period for **Nothing. No One. Nowhere**, Vol. 2, No. 1 is open until **April 20th**. Send up to **5 poems**. Full guidelines at <http://www.nothingnoonenowhere.com/p/submission-guidelines.html>.

Submissions are still open for the **2015 Enigmatist**. **The deadline is May 15th, 2015**. Please contact editor Mike **Gullickson** at [poetkind@yahoo.com](mailto:poetkind@yahoo.com) for guidelines. He says, “I am also looking for **cover art** that is enigmatic in any form.”

The **Alabama State Poetry Society** is now accepting submissions for the **Annual John and Miriam Morris Memorial Chapbook Competition**. **Deadline: May 31st, 2015**. PLEASE NOTE: You do not need to be a member of the Alabama State Poetry Society. Winner receives \$100 and 25 copies of his/her winning chapbook. Poems may be previously published if poet retains all rights. Submit 20-24 total pages of poetry. Submit two title pages, one with author information, and one without. Previous winning chapbooks can be purchased through New Dawn Unlimited, Inc for \$5 each. A complete list is available at [NewDawnUnlimited.com](http://NewDawnUnlimited.com) under the “chapbooks” button. **Send entry with \$15 reading fee** (checks made out to New Dawn Unlimited, Inc.) to: New Dawn Unlimited, Inc., Morris Memorial Chapbook Competition, 1830 Marvel Road, Brierfield, AL 35035. To join the Alabama State Poetry Society go to their website: <http://www.alabamapoets.org/register.php>.

## Poetry As A Team Sport

The **Poetry Caravan** is teaming up with **AIDS Services of Austin** to host a **reading and workshop** event on **April 15th** from **5:30-7:30** at **7215 Cameron Rd**. They're looking for **two women poets** who can address any of the myriad problems HIV-positive women face. If your life or the life of someone you know has ever been affected by this disease, then you know how powerful poetry can be to alleviate suffering and loneliness in this context. Visit <http://www.asaustin.org/services-programs/women-rising/> or contact Usha **Akella** ([poetrycaravanaustin@gmail.com](mailto:poetrycaravanaustin@gmail.com)) for more information.

**Malvern Books** is offering **all** of their **poetry** books at **20% off** the regular price during the month of April in honor of National Poetry Month. Not only do they devote an entire wall to poetry, but they carry poetry you will not find in any other bookstore in town. And if that isn't enough to encourage you to come out and support one of Austin's best independent bookstores, visit their events page at [malvernbooks.com/events/](http://malvernbooks.com/events/): not only are they hosting an open mic called **Lion & Pirate Unplugged** with **VSA Texas** and **The Pen 2 Paper Creative Writing Contest** during **AIPF**, but they are proud members of APS and host to more poetry events per month than you can throw an old lady who lives in a shoe at. This month, they are **hosting 7 poetry events**, so when you come to one or all of them, **plan to spend 20% less than usual** as you support this Austin poetry gem.

Former Austin Poetry Society President and *MuseLetter* editor Elzy **Cogswell** wishes to pay homage to the editor of *Lucidity Poetry Journal*, 91-year-old Ted **Badger**, who has kept it going for 27 years. His faithfulness deserves support and your best poetry: <http://www.lucidityjournal.00books.com/>. Be sure to check out the short egalitarian manifesto on the home page. Note also the fact that Mr. **Badger** only switched from publishing a print journal to publishing online after turning 90, fracturing BOTH legs and coping with illness. Bravo, Ted **Badger**!

## Poetry Coming Down All Around Us

Kaye Voigt **Abikhaled** received news from the Asbury Park Music and Film Festival that her film script "Railroad to Siberia" had made it through to some of the last rounds and saw many extra readings.

Usha **Akella** is glad to announce that her fourth book, *The Rosary of Latitudes*, is in the editing phase at Transcendent Zero Press to be released as their first full-scale publishing venture.

Gloria **Amescua's** poem "In Those Rooms" will be published in the 2015 AIPF *di-vêrsé-city* Anthology. Gloria, Lydia **Armendáriz**, and Linda Marie **Cossa**, filling in for Anjela Villarreal **Ratliff**, were featured at New World Deli on March 26th. She will also be attending the Round Top Poetry Festival April 17-19th.

Von S. **Bourland** has recently won 1st place in Annual Art Affair, the CSPA Monthly Contest and a 2nd Place, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Honorable Mentions at Poetry Society of Oklahoma contests. She has been a judge for Wichita Falls, the Mississippi Poetry Society and the Poetry Society of Texas Youth Contests. She also plans to attend the Lucidity Poetry Retreat in Eureka Springs, AR in April.

Claire Vogel **Camargo** enjoyed readings by Gene **Barry**, Irish poet and Director of the Fermoy International Poetry Festival, at the Round Rock Reading Series hosted by Dr. Brad **Strahan** in March, along with Susan **Rooke**, Diane **Conces** and others. Claire's poem "Guns and Tortilla Soup" appears in the Spring issue of *Ilyya's Honey*. She will attend the AIPF and Poetry at Round Top Festivals.

Elzy **Cogswell's** haiku, "small tanned muscular," will appear in this year's AIPF anthology, *di-vêrsé-city*. A new publication using work by persons associated with the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, *Soul by Southwest*, will include Elzy's poem, "Throwaway Clothes," and his photograph, "Beach Pattern Port A Number 76." Two of his poems previously published by *Subtle Tea*, "Wag Your Tail" and "Flat, Smooth and Hard," were reprinted in *Expressions! Living Heritage Poets* (Austin Texas: Austin Quantum Artists). *Lucidity Poetry Journal - Online* published his poem, "The Ongoing Collision."

Diana **Conces'** poem "Big Ears," based on an African Linguist Staff, was selected as a finalist in the the ARTlines2 national ekphrastic poetry competition. The awards reception, which is open to the public, will be held April 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. The event will feature performances of winning poems by an actress and lectures on the art works by an art historian.

Marcie **Eanes** and Susan Beall **Summers** are featured poets at the Sun Poets Society reading on Wednesday, April 8th at 6pm at Olmos Pharmacy (3902 McCullough, San Antonio, TX). Her poem "Personhood" was accepted for publication in *di-vêrsé-city*, the anthology for the Austin International Poetry Festival. This is Marcie's fifth year in a row to be honored by publication in *di-vêrsé-city*.

Nancy **Fierstien** is delightedly looking forward to hearing Ron **Kewin** perform his "Butterfly song" (composed in response to Nancy's poem "What a Difference This Day Makes") at Thirsty Thursday on April 16th. And seeing how it's National Poetry Month, she figures you've got at least 3 *other* good reasons to consider making a trek to Dripping Springs for Thirty Thursday: the night will include the music of Austin songwriter Joe **Blanda**, the poetry of Ernie "Bard of the Blanco" **Lee** and an Open Mike theme about "Open Carry on Campus." It all begins at 7 p.m. in the ranch house at DS Ranch Park, 1042 Event Center Drive off RR 12. Free refreshments come with the package deal. Call 512-858-2024 for more info.

Opie **Houston** wishes to extend an invitation to Haiku enthusiasts to join him in composing haiku and tanka at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Opies-poetry-friends/530846836971195>. Many of the poems found here are inspired by daily prompts from Carpe Diem Haiku Kai at <http://chevreuilscarpediem.blogspot.com/>, a site which outlines many different approaches to writing haiku.

Carie **Juettner** will be attending AIPF again this year and is excited that her poem "Poetry Tumbles" will be published in their anthology. The Poetry Caravan is working on creating their summer schedule. A new sign-up sheet will be available soon. Look for the link on the APS website and the Caravan Facebook page.

Elizabeth **Kropf** is honored to have the opportunity to review Gary Swaim's poetry collection *A Perhaps Line*. Her review can be read at: <https://perelandracollege.wordpress.com/2015/02/28/a-perhaps-line-a-review/>. She is also excited to have a poem in an upcoming "Revenge" anthology. Details can be found at <http://www.robocup-press.com/revenge-anthology.html>.

Beginning in January 2015, jazz poet Cat **Lee** and musician/educator Cecil **Carter** trained 4 poets to perform with improvising musicians during the stART Playing Poetricity Workshop. They will talk about the experience and present recordings of their best poems on KRTU-FM during its "Jazz Break at Noon" broadcast of April 21.

Garrison **Martt** tells us that The Past Poetry Project will present "More Poetry by Heart" on Saturday, April 25th at 2 p.m., Windsor Park Branch Library, 5833 Westminster Drive. We'll perform poems by heart including Whitman, Millay, Frost and more. We'll also invite audience members to share a memorized poem!

LaVern Spencer **McCarthy** recently won 1st place for her poem in Poetry Society Of Texas monthly news. She also won two honorable mentions for her poems in Missouri State Poetry Society.

Christa **Pandey's** poem "Eating Rain" was accepted for the AIPF anthology. Her poem "Communicable Diseases" will appear in the Poetry at Round Top anthology.

Anjela Villarreal **Ratliff's** poem "Rebirthing Ghosts" was selected for publication in the 2015 AIPF *di-vêrsé-city* anthology.

Susan **Rooke's** poem "A Marriage in the Hands" is featured on *A Year of Being Here, daily mindfulness poetry by wordsmiths of the here & now*, at <http://www.ayearofbeinghere.com/2015/03/susan-rooke-marriage-in-hands.html>.

Shubh Bala **Schiesser's** poem "Cir-rho-sis" will be published in *di-vêrsé-city*, and Shubh will attend AIPF and Round Top.

Brad **Strahan's** poem "Portrait of a Lady..." was accepted by Broad River Review.

Susan Beall **Summers** will be hosting a City Read at Malvern Books from 3-5 pm on Thursday, April 9 and the Midnight-to-Dawn Reading at Strange Brew on Sat, April 11 during AIPF, and he was a feature at Expressions! on Saturday, April 4th. She plans to take the poem-a-day challenge at Poetic Asides with Robert **Brewer**, and attend Round Top. She has also had five poems accepted for publication: "My Grandparent's House" for Silver Birch Press, "Peace on your Pillow" in *The Official Poets' Guide to Peace* by Chicago Poetry Press, and Baylor's Beall House of Poetry accepted all three of her recent submissions.

If AIPF and Round Top left you wanting more, Allyson **Whipple** will be running her workshop "Remix, Repeat, Reply: Playing with the Villanelle" both in-person and online. The in-person workshop takes place on April 25th from 3-5 p.m. The online workshop takes place on April 26th from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost is \$25 for in-person and \$15 for online. Visit <http://allysonmwhipple.com> to register or email [literaryaustin@gmail.com](mailto:literaryaustin@gmail.com) for more details.

Scott **Wiggerman** will be teaching a recently added workshop at Poetry at Round Top. "Writing the Bad Sonnet" is based on his exercise from Wingbeats II, and it will take place on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 11a.m. This workshop is for anyone who things that traditional sonnets are beyond his or her grasp. Registration is required.

## Austin is Poetry City: Events

**Sundays, 7-10p.m. Kick Butt Coffee Shop**, 5775 West Airport Blvd., #725, 512-454-KICK. **Spoken & Heard** with music. Many hosts.

**1st Sundays, 3-5p.m. Recycled Reads**, 5335 Burnet Rd., Austin, TX. All-ages **open mic**. Hosted by Louise Gail **Richardson**.

**2nd Sundays, 4-6p.m. Stompin' Grounds**, 3801 South Congress Ave, Austin, TX. **Austin Writers Roulette**. Reading and performance of original writing. Juried and hosted by Teresa Y. **Roberson**. Monthly themed reading; March's theme is "Walk in Another's Shoes". Visit [austinwritersroulette.com](http://austinwritersroulette.com) for other dates and themes. **\$5, 18+**

**Tuesdays, 7:15-11p.m. Spider House Ballroom**, 2908 Fruth St., Austin, TX 78705. **Austin Poetry Slam**, a weekly slam, featuring 5 random judges, regular slam scoring style, 13 poets on stage, and rotating hosts. See <http://austinslam.com/>.

**Wednesdays, 1-3p.m. Strange Brew**, 5326 Manchaca Rd. **Harriett's Writing Group**, read, write, hangout. Share your creative process with willing eyes and ears. An opportunity to write together with fellow writers. Hosted by Robin **Barratt**, 512-878-7636.

**2nd Wednesdays, 7-8:30p.m. Malvern Books**, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. **Mind Maze Reading Series**, organized by Raw Paw Press. Features: Ryan **Sharp**, Fatima **Hirsi** and PJ **Mendoza**, who will be releasing her chapbook. Hosts: AR **Rogers** and Wade **Martin**.

**4th Wednesdays, 7p.m. St. George's Episcopal Church**, Kleburg Hall, 4301 N. IH 35, Austin, Texas 78722. **Austin Quantum Artists**, an open-source creative community of collaborators, patrons and partners. Hosts: Dora **Robinson** and Pete **Sebert**.

**2nd Thursdays, 7:30p.m. Barnes & Noble Arboretum**, mezzanine. Monthly **open mic** with featured poets. Co-hosted by Barbara Youngblood **Carr** and Herman M. **Nelson**. For more info call 418-8985 (Barnes & Noble) or 343-7940 (Carr).

**3rd Thursdays, 7p.m. Dripping Springs Ranch Park**, 1042 DS Ranch Road, Dripping Springs. **Thirsty Thursday**, themed event with featured poets, open mic follows. Next theme: Open Carry on Campus. Host: Nancy **Fierstein**. Call Nancy (512-858-2024) for info.

**3rd Thursdays, 7:30p.m. Barnes & Noble Arboretum**, mezzanine. Monthly **poetry workshop** hosted by Barbara Youngblood **Carr**, author of 17 books of poetry/prose and short stories, and published author Herman M. **Nelson**. Bring 10 copies of a work in progress for friendly critiquing. For more info call 418-8985 (Barnes & Noble) or 343-7940 (Carr).

**4th Thursdays, 7-8p.m. Malvern Books. W. Joe's Poetry Corner**, in which host W. Joe **Hoppe** interviews a poet, who will then give a reading and answer questions from audience members.

**2nd & 4th Fridays, 6:30-8:30p.m. Cianfrani Coffee Company**, 109 West 7th St. (on the Square), Georgetown, TX. **Poetry Plus Open Mic Night**. Hosted by Mike Jones (8direct@gmail.com) and Mike & Joyce Gullickson (poetkind@yahoo.com).

**3rd Fridays, 1-3p.m. Twin Oaks Library**, 1800 S. 5th at West Mary. **Share Your Stories**, a gathering to share life stories in poetry, prose, flash fiction, music, song, etc. Swapping stories just for fun. All welcome. Host: Ralph **Hausser**.

**1st Saturdays, 6-10p.m. Austin Baha'i Center**, 2215 E M Franklin Ave, Austin, TX 78723. **Expressions**, an all-ages themed reading featuring a pot luck (bring a dish) and Poets Pantry (bring canned food). Various hosts and featured poets, followed by an open mic. [www.austinbahai.org](http://www.austinbahai.org)

**2nd Saturdays, 1:30-3p.m. Round Rock Public Library**, 216 E Main Ave, Round Rock, TX 78664. **Round Rock Reading Series**, Featuring R.T. **Castleberry** and Cindy **Huysen**, open mic to follow. Host: Dr. Bradley **Strahan**.

**April 14th-June 10th (various dates, times and locations), Austin Public Library Branches. Badgerdog Spring Workshops for Adults**, a series of poetry workshops on nature, odes, confessionalism, joy, persona and biliomancy, taught by Kelsey Erin **Shipman**, Wade **Martin**, Logan **Fry**, Tyler **Gobble**, Julie **Choffel**, and Amanda **North**. For more exact information, visit [http://www.austinlibrary.org/site/PageServer?pagename=bdog\\_adult](http://www.austinlibrary.org/site/PageServer?pagename=bdog_adult).

**April 8th-April 12th (various dates, times and locations), Headquarters at Strange Brew**, 5326 Manchaca Rd. **The Austin International Poetry Festival**, featuring Allyson **Whipple**, AR **Rogers**, Nikki **Giovanni**, Outspoken **Bean**, Bob **Mud**, Tova **Charles**, Carolyn **Adams**, Candy **Royalle**, Suzi Q. **Smith** and a host of other readers from across the globe. For more exact information visit <http://www.aipf.org/>.

**Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 7-9p.m. Red Eyed Fly**, 715 Red River St, Austin, TX 78701. **Open Mic**, hosted by Jazz **One**.

**Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 3p.m. MACC**, 600 River St. **CantoMundo** Reading, featuring Liliana **Valenzuela**, Octavio **Quintanilla** and more.

**Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 6-8p.m. Malvern Books. Release Party and bilingual poetry reading for Pterodáctilo**, a digital literary journal from graduate students in Spanish and Portuguese at UT Austin.